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INFORMATION AND COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS, UNITED NATIONS BODIES, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Secretary-General

ANNEX

Reply dated 19 February 1998 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria

GE.98-13146 (E)

REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

1. The latest figures or estimates for:

(a) Total population, including non-nationals:

8,535,075 persons, including:

1,930 habitual residents who are non-nationals;

212 persons with a provisional residence permit for more than three months.

(b) Number of Bulgarian nationals aborad: The competent authorities are now in the process of gathering information on the number of Bulgarian citizens abroad.

(c) Non-nationals having authorization to work in the country: 1,930.

(d) Irregular migrants, including visa abusers, 526 (for 1997).

2. Measures taken to strengthen the promotion, protection and implementation of the human rights of migrants:

The legal and social status of foreigners living in Bulgarian territory for work purposes is governed by the domestic legislation in force, in conformity with international and European legal standards, so as to fully guarantee their individual rights and freedoms, on the basis of the equality of everyone before the law and full application of the principle of non-discrimination.

Foreigners authorized to reside habitually in Bulgaria, persons to whom the authorities have granted the right of asylum and persons who have been given refugee status may be employed under a work contract in conformity with the method established for Bulgarian nationals. Foreigners not habitually resident in the country must obtain a work permit from the National Employment Service if no other provisions are established in intergovernmental agreements.

A work permit is not issued in cases or in circumstances in which the conditions of work and pay are less favourable than those for Bulgarian workers or in cases in which the pay is not sufficient to cover the person's living costs in Bulgaria.

Foreigners working in Bulgaria have the same rights and obligations as Bulgarian citizens, in accordance with the labour laws in force, the work contract, social insurance and welfare, and taxes, if no other provisions are established in international agreements to which Bulgaria is a contracting party.

3. Manifestations of racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination of migrants have not been observed in Bulgaria. We have no information on such manifestations against Bulgarian nationals abroad.

4. Steps taken in order to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the Convention concerning Migration for Employment (Revised), 1949 (No. 97), and the Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (No. 143).

The competent authorities are in the process of conducting a general survey of domestic legislation in force in this regard and bringing it into line with the above-mentioned Conventions, in conjunction with ratification.